



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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### In the Spotlight - Health Care Coalitions - Tested, Tried and True

*by Janis Goedeke, Administrator  
Crawford County Health Department*



As you may all be aware, Baxter Springs was hit by a tornado on April 27. Cherokee County had requested tetanus vaccine (TDAP), but with the cost of the vaccine, most health departments do not keep a large inventory on hand. I notified our regional coordinator, Ed Garner, to locate some vaccine for Cherokee County. Through regional coordination we were able to begin administering tetanus vaccinations to volunteers and tornado victims on Monday, April 28. It is very typical of the Lower 8 Public Health Preparedness Region to support each other during emergencies, and the Lower 8 once

again rose to the occasion and assisted Cherokee in locating the vaccine as well assisting in the response. However, the new piece to our response was the availability of the regional Health Care Coalition (HCC). I was not sure of the volume of TDAP that would be needed, so I contacted our HCC regional coordinator, Fred Rinne. He was able to contact all the hospitals in the region and give us the amount of vaccine available from the hospitals. Not only did we get the number of vaccines available, but arrangements were made to deliver the vaccine from the hospitals to the site. Mercy Hospital, Joplin and Via Christi Hospital Pittsburg, Inc. were on site and assisted Cherokee County in meeting other needs of the victims/volunteers such as access to sun screen, first aid kits, etc. There were even some hospital(s) that were going through the process to have the vaccine donated. Before health care coalitions were formed, this type of response would have been unheard of. How wonderful to see the silos between public health and hospitals come down!

This coordinated response enhanced and strengthened the response efforts to those affected by the tornado. The cooperation level between the different partnering agencies was exceptional and those in leadership roles communicated the response needs and activities well. The SEK HCC has been tested, tried and found to be true ... healthcare coalitions work!

### Preparedness Healthcare Coalitions in Kansas

*Emily Farley, Planning and Volunteer Coordinator, Preparedness Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



A healthcare coalition is a network of key representatives from public and private health and safety organizations that help communities prepare, respond, and recover from events impacting Kansas. The activities undertaken by a

coalition include but are not limited to planning, organizing, equipping, training, exercising, evaluating, and networking.

Benefits of coalition participation:

- Develop relationships with partners.
- Participate in coordinated regional trainings and exercises that test organizational and regional capabilities.
- Receive additional resources and/or support.
- Expand regional planning and agreements.
- Bridge the gaps between public and private partners.
- Improve communication and/or information sharing by participating in meetings.
- Assist in building community resilience.
- Access to situational awareness.
- Access to communication systems.
- Participate and/or develop educational opportunities.
- Share best practices and lessons learned.
- There are seven healthcare coalitions in Kansas.



The Southwest Hospital Emergency Response Team (SHERT) Healthcare Coalition meeting on May 9, 2014



The Kansas City Kansas Healthcare Coalition meeting on April 16, 2014.

Continued on page 3

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Development of healthcare coalitions (HCCs) became a federal preparedness cooperative agreement requirement in 2012. Since then, seven healthcare coalitions have been established in the state of Kansas along with a grassroots statewide HCC steering committee. For more information about healthcare coalitions, please click on the Regional Healthcare Coalitions logo above.

### **Impacting Population Health 2014: Connecting Local Health Priorities with Healthy Kansans 2020**

*by Jane Shirley, Center for Population Health Director*

*Local Public Health Program Director, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) would like to announce that the next series of regional meetings, "Impacting Population Health 2014: Connecting Local Health Priorities with Healthy Kansas 2020," is underway which is continuing the discussions started last year through the Impacting Population Health events. Robert Moser, M.D., Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary and State Health Officer, will be present at all events which will begin at 12:45 p.m. Attendees will hear about the state health assessment, Healthy Kansans 2020 and discuss connections with local community health assessments and improvement plans. KDHE encourages representatives from a broad group of health care providers, including public health, hospitals, primary care clinics, primary care providers and others to plan to attend. There will be no cost to attend and additional details will be distributed and registration via [KS-TRAIN](#), Course ID, 1049339. Click the 2020 logo to download the flyer.



Dr. Moser in Chanute on April 24

#### Dates and locations are as follows:

June 10, Topeka, Kansas Department for Children and Families Learning Center, 2600 SW East Circle Drive South

June 12, Olathe, Johnson County Sunset Building, 11811 S Sunset Avenue

### **Applications Now Available for Year 10 of the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute**

*Kathleen Brandert, Director, Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute Manager*

*Workforce Development and Leadership Programs, University of Nebraska Medical Center*



The Great Plains Public Health Leadership (GPPHLI) is a regional institute focusing on leadership development in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and the Great Plains Region. We encourage a mix of emerging, mid-level and senior leaders from all sectors who play a role in the health system from governmental public health to insurance companies, from community health centers to civic and elected leaders.

The Institute strengthens leaders by offering training

- at the individual level (Who am I as a leader? What style(s) do I use to lead?),
- the organizational level (How can I build effective teams? How does my leadership affect others in my organization?),
- and the trans-organizational level (How can I influence the public health system through my leadership?).

Application materials and more information about the Great Plains PHLI can be found online by clicking on the GPPHLI logo. Applications are due June 16.

### **Regional Meetings on Community Mobilization to Improve Community Health**

*by Missty Lechner, Advocacy Project Director Midwest Affiliate*

*American Health Association*



Save the date to attend regional meetings on Community Mobilization to Improve Community Health. The Kansas Alliance for Wellness in partnership with the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition will be hosting regional meetings to facilitate a dialog about community mobilization to improve community health. The meetings will provide communities an opportunity to share their experiences, success, and challenges related to community health efforts in order to learn from one another. If you are considering implementing a healthy food initiative this is a great opportunity to learn about, discuss and explore what is going on in your part of the state. The Western Kansas regional meeting will be held July 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley. Other regional meetings will be held in Topeka on July 18 and in Hutchinson on July 29.

### National Men's Health Week

June 9-15

Men can make their health a priority.  
To learn more click the image.



### CHA and CHIP Learning Sessions - Mark Your Calendars

*by Sarah Hartsig, Research Analyst  
Kansas Health Institute*



Mark your calendars for two in-person training and peer sharing Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) sessions. You may attend one or both of the sessions to be held on July 31 (CHA) and August 5 (CHIP), 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Previous attendees are welcome to attend again for additional skill-building and practice. Because these are a condensed version of previously-held sessions, each will require participants to complete approximately two hours of pre-session work to prepare for discussion and interaction during the sessions. More information and registration on KS-TRAIN will be available soon. These sessions will meet the Accreditation-Readiness Mini-Grant attendance requirement.

Contact Mary Beth Warren at [mwarren2@kumc.edu](mailto:mwarren2@kumc.edu), with questions. Brought to you by the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the University of Kansas Area Health Education Centers and the Kansas Health Institute.

### Exhibitor Registration is Now Available for the 2014 KPHA Conference - Deadline Sept. 15

*by the KPHA Conference Committee*



Please join us as an exhibitor at the 71st Annual Kansas Public Health Association Conference. This annual event attracts public health leaders and professionals from around the state. These individuals represent a wide range of professions including academics, dental hygienists, dieticians, nurses, nursing home administrators, physicians, sanitarians and social workers among others. Exhibiting at the conference will provide you and your organization the opportunity to interact with key decision makers and to showcase your products and services.

For more information or to apply as an Exhibitor/Sponsor, click the conference logo above. The application deadline is Monday, Sept. 15.

### 2014 Text4baby State Enrollment Contest Launched

*by Cristi Cain, Certified Prevention Professional  
Public Health Specialist, Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The [2014 Text4baby State Enrollment Contest](#) launched on May 11, which will see which state can enroll the most text4baby users between now and Nov. 1. Winners will be announced in mid-November in conjunction with the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Last year's winners were North Carolina, Arkansas and South Dakota. Text4baby is a free mobile information service designed to promote maternal and child health. Whether you have promoted text4baby in the past or not, this contest presents a great opportunity to kick-start or energizes your promotional efforts to enroll women in this valuable service. The contest web page has a press release template, talking points, public service announcements and other resources to help you promote the contest in your state.

### New Medical Countermeasures Program Manager

*by the Bureau of Community Health Systems*



The Bureau of Community Health Systems is pleased to announce that Laura Ross began work on May 27 as the Medical Countermeasures Program Manager in the Preparedness Program. She has worked for the Kansas Department of Health & Environment Laboratories since 2007, first as the Clinical Laboratory Improvements (CLIA) Technical Supervisor and later as the State Training Coordinator. Laura holds a BS degree in Biology and a BA degree in Chemistry from Washburn University of Topeka. Her knowledge and experience in quality improvement, training, and laboratory preparedness and response make her well suited to her new role in the bureau. You can reach her at [LRoss@kdheks.gov](mailto:LRoss@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-7428.



## Kansas Alliance for Wellness Partners

*by Missty Lechner, Advocacy Project Director Midwest Affiliate  
American Heart Association*



Sign Up for the Kansas Alliance for Wellness Partners (KAW). KAW partners receive access to coalition resources, communications materials, educational events, connection to other partners and email announcements on obesity and healthy food and beverage topics. There are no membership fees. Membership in KAW does not imply you or your organization supports any piece of legislation. Support will be requested on a case-by-case basis for each legislative issue. If you haven't already done so please take a few minutes to complete the Kansas Alliance for Wellness Partner Commitment Form to ensure that you can receive the email resources. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Missty Lechner at [missty.lechner@heart.org](mailto:missty.lechner@heart.org).

## 9th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference

*by Governor's Public Health Conference Committee*



Dr. Moser with Ric Averill, as  
Dr. Samuel Crumbine

The Governor's Public Health Conference Committee would like to express their appreciation to this year's attendees of the conference in Wichita. Based on the evaluation responses to date, the conference content hit the mark in meeting your education needs.

The closing presentation sponsored by the Kansas Health Foundation, "Red Blood and High Purpose: The Story of Dr. Samuel Crumbine," portrayed by Ric Averill, was a huge success with the audience. One conference attendee stated, "I felt that the skit about Crumbine was a great way to introduce information in a different learning style. I can almost bet that each person that watched and listened learned something new that day." The conference committee will be meeting soon to review all of the evaluation results and begin planning for the 10th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference which will be held, April 28-30 in Wichita.

## Lawrence Celebrates Healthy Food Victory

*by Missty Lechner, Advocacy Project Director  
Midwest Affiliate, American Heart Association*



Congratulations to the LiveWell Lawrence Coalition for their healthy food victory. They were able to secure public funding for a pilot project to double Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars at two Lawrence farmers markets. Their hard work to get this funding proposal approved is inspiring. Please check out the article in the [Lawrence-Journal World](#) for more information. If any community would like to work with KAW to plan healthy food policy initiatives, contact Missty Lechner at [missty.lechner@heart.org](mailto:missty.lechner@heart.org). She would be happy to speak with you about technical assistance and resources that are available to assist you with your work.

## Office of Communications - The Dispatch

*by the Office of Communications, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Communications launched the Dispatch, a video series posted to YouTube which spotlights programs in the agency. A new video, Illegal Dumping with Bob Medina is now available. Click the KDHE logo to view this video.

To view recent episodes, click the links below:

- [Quality Improvement](#)
- [Special Health Needs](#)
- [Healthy Kansas 2020](#)
- [Radon and Lung Cancer](#)
- [Foodborne Illness](#)
- [Child Care Licensing](#)
- [Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy \(WARPS\)](#)

## Public Health History



Here is a brick reminding pedestrians not to spit on the sidewalk as part of Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine's crusade to improve public health.

## Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Sunflower Trails Program - Deadline July 9



The Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans is pleased to release the 2014 Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for its Sunflower Trails program. Trail funding is available to municipalities and non-profit organizations across Kansas that seek to improve their community's "built environment" by creating safe, accessible places for outdoor physical activity.

"Everyone knows about the importance of exercise, but a critical component is access to safe and convenient places to walk or bike," said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation. "Trails encourage Kansans of all ages and abilities to enjoy both physical activity and the great outdoors."

There are a variety of funding options for potential trail projects. Applicants are invited to review the following RFPs as a first step to determine the best fit for their project:

- [RFP #14-101-106](#) - Community-Based New Trails or Trail Expansions. This RFP is designed for communities of any size who wish to construct a trail at least one half mile in length, or expand an existing trail by adding half a mile. Funding is available up to \$55,000, contingent upon project budget and bids, and all grants require a \$1 for \$1 match.
- [RFP #14-101-107](#) - Community-Based Existing Trail Enhancements. This RFP is designed for communities who wish to improve an existing trail with either infrastructure (i.e., bridges), trees for trail shading and/or distance signage. Funding is available up to \$20,000, contingent upon project budget and bids, and all grants require a \$1 for \$1 match.
- [RFP #14-101-108](#) - Community-Based Trail Connectors. This RFP is designed for communities who wish to link an existing trail with another trail or an access point to improve usability. The trail connector may be less than one-half mile. Funding is available up to \$30,000, contingent upon project budget and bids, and all grants require a \$1 for \$1 match.
- [RFP #14-101-109](#) - School-Based New Trails. This RFP is designed for schools who wish to construct a trail at least one quarter mile in length on the school property. Funding is available up to \$25,000, contingent upon project budget and bids, and all grants require a \$1 for \$1 match.

Please visit [SunflowerFoundation.org](http://SunflowerFoundation.org) for more information and to download the RFPs.

Online applications are due Wednesday, July 9 at 5 p.m. CT. Funding decisions are expected in August. All interested applicants should review the RFPs and then contact program officer Elizabeth Stewart at [estewart@sunflowerfoundation.org](mailto:estewart@sunflowerfoundation.org) or 785-232-3000 or toll-free 866-232-3020. After the initial conversation, the applicant will either be given a link to the online application, or provided with further guidance and instructions to increase application readiness.

### Safe Routes to School 2014 Application Information - Deadline July 18



information by clicking on the KDOT logo.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). The SRTS program was created to encourage more children to walk and bicycle to school and to make it safer for them to do so. This federally funded program will provide reimbursements to cities, counties and school districts for projects that focus around education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation. You can find a copy of the application

### Team Nutrition Applications - Deadline August 31

*by Jill Ladd RD, LD, Team Nutrition Project Director  
Child Nutrition and Wellness, KSDE*



Power Panther Pals Primary Level (K-2) and Intermediate Level (3-5): Applications are being accepted for this eight week health education curriculum that incorporates nutrition education, physical activity and cooking/tasting activities. Sub-grant funding in the amount of \$5 per student is available to help implement the cooking/tasting activities. Participating classrooms will also receive a teacher implementation manual and student activity booklets for every student.

Power Up! This eight week health education program curriculum for middle school students includes sub-grant funding, \$5 per student, to help cover the costs of cooking/tasting activities. Curriculum contains nutrition education, physical activity and self-esteem boosters for middle school students. Participating classrooms will also receive a teacher implementation manual and student activity booklets for every student.

Power Panther Professionals (Staff Wellness Program): Apply for this six to 12 week customizable staff wellness program designed for school personnel. Choose from three program offerings including MyPlate Basics, Wellness Every day and Incorporating Nutrition Education and Physical Activity into Curriculum. Sub-grant funding in the amount of \$100 per participating school is available.

To download an application and additional information click the Kansas State department of Education logo above. You may contact Jill Ladd at [jladd@ksde.org](mailto:jladd@ksde.org) or Emily Brinkman at [ebrinkman@ksde.org](mailto:ebrinkman@ksde.org) with program questions.

## Training and Conference Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Kansas Green Schools and Environmental Education Conference - June 27 - 28

*by Rachel Wahle, Kansas Green School Coordinator*

*Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education*



The Kansas Association of Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is excited to announce the Kansas Green Schools and Environmental Education Conference is now open for registration. The Green Schools Program encompasses over 500 schools and partners across the state and promotes healthy, environmentally friendly spaces to work, learn and play. This year's conference, "The Next Generation of Learning: Bringing the New Science Standards to Life through School & Community Partnerships", will be held on June 27-28, at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita. For more information or to register, click the KACEE logo.

### Save the Date, 2014 Kansas Preparedness Summit - July 25 - 26

*by the Preparedness Program*

*Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

The 2014 Kansas Preparedness and Human Services Disaster Summit will be July 25-26 in Topeka. This conference is hosted by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The conference offers sessions for voluntary organizations active in disaster staff and volunteers, Citizen Corps groups, emergency managers, human service in disaster professionals, animal responders and citizens. Registration is free with limited hotel rooms available on a first come, first serve basis. Registration is through [KS-TRAIN](#), Course ID# 1051110.

## Lactation Counselor Training and Certified Lactation Counselor Certification Exam - Sept 29 - Oct. 3

*by Linda Redding, Nursing Supervisor  
Riley County Health Department*



Kansas has a unique opportunity for providers who offer lactation support. This fall The Center for Breastfeeding will be in Manhattan, Kansas to offer Lactation Counselor Training with a Certified Lactation Counselor Certificate.

The Lactation Counselor Training Course will afford the opportunity to take the core competencies, the Lactation Assessment Tool Competency (LAT), and the exam to become a Certified Lactation Counselor® (CLC®) as designated through the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice (ALPP). Research has shown that when healthcare providers take a course such as the Lactation Counselor Training Course and change practice, breastfeeding exclusivity and duration rates increase!

This 5-day course is geared toward anyone who wants to obtain a strong, up-to-date, evidence based foundation in breastfeeding knowledge and skills, and achieve national certification as a certified Lactation Counselor. Continuing education Contact Hours are available.

This training will be offered in Manhattan Sept. 29 - Oct.3. Please see the [training flyer](#) for more details and registration information.

## Public Health Ethics Training Series from the North Carolina Institute for Public Health



The North Carolina Institute for Public Health (NCIPH) Training Website is pleased to host a Public Health Ethics training series previously developed by the Program in Public Health Ethics at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health in collaboration with the Southeast Public Health Training Center. This 8-part series which is posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, was developed to promote the ethical practice of public health through teaching about the ethical principles of public health and by providing resources for creating an ethical climate in public agencies and institutions.

Public Health Ethics Modules:

- Distinguishing Public Health Ethics from Medical Ethics, Module 1, Course ID# 1050863
- Values and Beliefs Inherent to a Public Health Perspective, Module 2, Course ID# 1050887
- The Public Health Code of Ethics, Module 3, Course ID# 1050890
- Law and Ethics in Public Health, Module 4, Course ID# 1050892
- Pandemic Influenza: A Justice Case Study, Module 5, Course ID# 1050897
- Decision-making in Public Health Ethics, Module 6, Course ID# 1050901
- Barriers to the Ethical Practice of Public Health, Module 7, Course ID# 1050903
- Responding to Unethical Events, Module 8, Course ID# 1050909

## UNC Hosts Over Two Hundred Courses on TRAIN

*by the Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The University of North Carolina (UNC) has listed over two hundred courses on TRAIN through an integration with the Learning Management System (LMS). These courses all have national visibility and are part of different curriculums offered by UNC. The Public Health Foundation (PHF) has combined blocks of these listings in TRAIN into nationally available training plans matching the UNC curriculums. The training plans are listed below along with the corresponding curriculum listing from UNC.

- [E is for Epidemiology Series](#) (11 modules)
- [I is for Investigation Series](#) (7 modules)
- [Basics of Public Health Preparedness](#) (10 modules)



## NACCHO University Hosting Courses on TRAIN

*by NACCHO and the Medical Reserve Corps*



NACCHO University is the National Association of County & City Health Officials newest learning platform that provides professional development resources to assist with developing knowledge and competencies for local public health professionals to advance their careers. By partnering with TRAIN, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit leaders and volunteers will have seamless access to even more continuing education opportunities in public health.

NACCHO University courses are currently free to all participants. Courses currently offered through [TRAIN](#) include:

- Climate Change and Public Health, Course ID# 1050176
- Community Environmental Health Assessments, Course ID# 1050177
- Environmental Public Health (EPH) Primer Overview, Course ID# 1050175
- Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS), Course ID# 1050178
- Good Decision Making in Real Time: Practical Public Health Ethics for Local Health Officials, Course ID# 1050534
- Key Functions of Public Health Financial Management, Course ID# 1050172
- Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills: What is Strategic Planning and How Do I Prepare? Course ID# 1050173
- Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP): Organize for Success/Partnership Development and Four Assessment Phases, Course ID# 1050170
- Opportunities for Hospital and Local Health Department Collaboration for Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning, Course ID# 1050171
- Public Health and the Law: An Emergency Preparedness Training Kit, Course ID# 1050167
- Working with the Media, Course ID# 1050181

## News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



### Population Health and Preparedness State Wide Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a monthly Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call the fourth Tues. of the month. The June call will be held Tuesday, June 24. To view minutes from the monthly calls click the KDHE logo.

### Harvesters and SNAP



Harvesters provides emergency food assistance to low-income families. Hunger rates are at an all-time high and many families at risk of hunger need more than one-time, emergency help with food. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, helps provide people with a consistent means to purchase their own food. Harvesters' SNAP outreach team can help people apply for SNAP assistance and answer any questions they may have. Applying for SNAP is easy and discreet. Harvesters' SNAP outreach team can help people apply for benefits in person or over the phone. People do not have to visit a government office or stand in line. All private information is kept completely confidential. Contact the SNAP Outreach Team by emailing [SNAP@harvesters.org](mailto:SNAP@harvesters.org) or calling 877-653-9522.

### MarketLink Provides Free Equipment



MarketLink is a program that provides qualifying farmers or farmers markets with free equipment including: a new iPhone 5c, card reader, printer and data services, a merchant account for processing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), debit and credit transactions and a nationally negotiated rate that is the lowest in the marketplace for processing credit and debit transactions. For more information you may visit their website by clicking on their logo. Please share this information with farmers and farmers markets in your area.

### Drought Communication Toolkit



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health and the National Public Health Information Coalition have developed a [drought communication toolkit](#) that serves as a central repository for a wide range of information and materials on the public health effects of drought. The toolkit features information on the 21st century challenges of drought, drought signs and symptoms, key messages for the general public and e-learning materials to help state, local and tribal health officials address drought's potential public health impacts.

### Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act



Senator Pat Roberts is one of four senators who sponsored legislation in the U.S. Senate that seeks to address several important rural health care initiatives. The Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act (R-HoPE) extends several rural provisions that have expired or are set to expire, such as Low Volume Hospital program. S. 2359 also would remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement as a condition of payment for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and would extend through 2014 the enforcement moratorium on the outpatient therapy "direct supervision" policy for CAHs and rural prospective payment system hospitals with 100 or fewer beds. A summary of the various policy recommendations included in S. 2359 may be found [here](#).

### ASTHO Public Health and Pharmacy Advisory Committee



Several months ago, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) convened a Public Health and Pharmacy Advisory Committee to help identify issues surrounding pandemic influenza response. The committee recognized many priority areas, including legal barriers for pharmacy vaccinators. In response, ASTHO has created a Pharmacy Legal Toolkit to provide guidance and templates for state and territorial health agencies when establishing effective partnerships with pharmacies during routine and pandemic influenza seasons. To learn more click the ASTHO logo.

### New Data Shows Quality Improvements



The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that preliminary [data](#) indicate an overall nine percent decrease in hospital-acquired conditions nationally between 2011 and 2012. These reductions include adverse drug events, falls, infections and other forms of hospital-induced harm. According the HHS:

- 15,000 deaths have been prevented
  - 560,000 patient injuries have been avoided
  - Health care spending has decreased \$4 billion
- To learn more about this news release click the HHS logo.

### ICD-10-CM/PCS Implementation



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services officially announced a forthcoming interim final rule from the United States Department of Health and Human Services that will set the new compliance date of Oct. 1, 2015, for ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation. This announcement came exactly one month after Congress unexpectedly delayed the mandatory implementation of ICD-10-CM/PCS for at least one year with enactment of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014.

### U.S. Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth



The National Physical Activity Plan Alliance and the American College of Sports Medicine have released the first U.S. Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth. The report provides a comprehensive evaluation of physical activity levels and indicators influencing physical activity among children and youth. It also serves as an advocacy tool for decision makers working to create environments conducive to physical activity. Physical activity was graded across 10 indicators, with one indicator illustrating that less than half of U.S. children and youth are meeting physical activity standards. Visit the Association of State & Territorial Health Official's Physical Activity [Guidelines for Americans](#) web page for state stories and other resources highlighting state-specific initiatives to increase physical activity across various sectors. To read more about this report click the National Physical Activity Plan logo.

## Strategies for Reducing Health Disparities



Evidence-based interventions at the local and national levels provide promising strategies for reducing racial and ethnic health disparities related to HIV infection rates, immunization coverage, motor vehicle injuries and deaths and smoking, according to a new Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) supplement by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Office of Minority Health and Health Equity. The report describes CDC-led programs addressing some of the health disparities previously highlighted in the CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Reports. Successes are spotlighted from the Vaccines for Children program and tribal motor vehicle injury prevention programs, among others. To read more about this report click on the MMWR logo.

## Job Openings

### Harvey County Health Department

The Harvey County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Community Health Nurse](#)



### Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Health Facility Surveyor](#)



### Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Clinic Office Supervisor](#)



### Leavenworth County Health Department

The Leavenworth County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Lab Tech/Medical Technologist](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)



### Lyon County Health Department

The Lyon County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Dental Access Specialist](#)
- [Dentist](#)
- [Family Physician or APRN](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse \(LPN\)](#)
- [Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner](#)



### Reno County Health Department

The Reno County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse/Physician Assistant](#)
- [Certified Home Health Aide Full-Time](#)
- [Nursing Supervisor](#)



### Sedgwick County Health Department

The Sedgwick County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Registered Dietician](#)



### Shawnee County Health Department

The Shawnee County Health Agency is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Fetal Infant Mortality Review Coordinator/Abstractor](#)
- [Medical Director](#)
- [Mid-Level Practitioner](#)



**Wyandotte County Health Department**

The Wyandotte County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)

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Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at [pbehnke@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbehnke@kdheks.gov) or

Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov)